

A test-based strategy does not help inform return to work for healthcare workers with COVID-19

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Abstract

Objective: To assess the utility of a test-based approach to shorten isolation of healthcare workers with COVID-19 in the setting of the highly transmissible omicron variant **Methods:** Between December 24th, 2021, to January 5th, 2022 HCWs who tested positive for SARS-CoV-2 were re-tested at least five days since onset of symptoms. **Results:** 46 sequential fully COVID-19 vaccinated HCWs who had tested positive for SARS-CoV-2 underwent follow up testing. All the isolates were confirmed as omicron variants and only 4 (8.7%) were negative 5 days or more since onset of symptoms., **Conclusions:** Implementation of a test-based strategy is logistically challenging, increases costs and did not lead to shorter isolation in our institution.

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